

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** November 7, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on October 27, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

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Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, Reliable Plating, Chicago, Illinois**

On October 23, 2006, at approximately 4:00 a.m., a fire erupted at the Reliable Plating Corp. facility located on Lake Street in Chicago, Illinois. The fire department and Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE) responded. At approximately 7:45 a.m., United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 Emergency Response received a call for assistance from CDOE. U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Craig Thomas responded to the scene. A Unified Command was established with the Chicago Office of Emergency Management, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Office of Fire Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, CDOE, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), U.S. EPA, Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Police Department, and Chicago Traffic Management Authority. The fire was extinguished at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The potentially responsible party hired a contractor to begin clean up work at the facility. Immediate threats of release from cyanides (approximately 2,500 gallons of liquid cyanides and between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds of potassium and sodium cyanide powders) stored in the plating facility were containerized.

Additional work continues to remove acids and caustics from the facility.

Contact: Craig Thomas (312-886-5907)

**"Return to Use" Initiative Site (Harvest Time), Rose Township  
Dump Superfund Site, Rose Township, Michigan**

On October 19, 2006, representatives from Michigan State University, DaimlerChrysler, and NextEnergy met to determine if contaminated land might be a good place to grow crops for biodiesel. The project which falls under U.S. EPA's Return to Use initiative involves a collaborative effort between U.S. EPA and the State of Michigan, DaimlerChrysler, NextEnergy and Michigan State University. Corn, canola, sunflower, switchgrass, and soybean test crops grown on two acres of the 110-acre Superfund site in Oakland County are being studied to find out if the oils they produce could be used to create renewable fuels for vehicles.

Contacts: Thomas Bloom (312-886-1967)  
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**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Meeting, Region 5 Regional Response Team, St. Louis, Missouri**

On October 10, 2006, there was a meeting of the Region 5 Regional Response Team (RRT) in St. Louis, Missouri. This was the first meeting for the two newest co-chairs. William J. Bolen (Chief, Emergency Response Branch 1) serves as the U.S. EPA co-chair and Captain Jeffrey E. Ogden (Chief, Incident Management Branch, Ninth Coast Guard District) serves as the U.S. Coast Guard co-chair. Topics included a discussion of U.S. EPA Eco Regions, Data Management in Emergencies, a case study of the Delta Fuels spill in Toledo, Ohio, and the Federal/State Roundtable. The next Region 5 RRT meeting is scheduled for February 27-28, 2007, in Detroit, Michigan.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

**Joint Regional Response Team Meeting, Regions 5 & 7, St. Louis, Missouri**

On October 11, 2006, there was a joint meeting of the Region 5

and Region 7 Regional Response Teams (RRTs). The purpose of this meeting was to prepare for the Spills of National Significance (SONS) Mid-Planning Conference. One of the discussion topics was how the Federal government would be organized for SONS play. While there was no final decision regarding Federal play, there was a very productive discussion. There was also a short table top exercise involving Region 5 and 7 RRTs and their response to an earthquake scenario.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

**Spills of National Significance Exercise Mid-Planning Conference, St. Louis, Missouri**

Beginning October 17 through October 19, 2006, there was a Spills of National Significance (SONS) Mid-Planning Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The objectives for this conference were to: 1) determine exercise scope of play and exercise locations, 2) identify State and regional player interface within the SONS exercise, 3) discuss status of and requirements for the Exercise Plan, 4) discuss control evaluation and Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) for the exercise, 5) provide an opportunity for venues to discuss and resolve exercise issues and concerns, and 6) identify participants and venue future meetings. As a result of the many breakout sessions that took place during the conference, there are many planning meetings planned at the U.S. Coast Guard Sector level. The Upper Mississippi River Sector will have an Initial Planning Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 29, 2006. The SONS Final Planning Conference will take place in Memphis, Tennessee, in March 2007.

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